

Planning Issues

The specific issues that will be resolved by the new GMP will be identified in consultation with the public. The GMP will likely touch upon the following issues, among others.

Appomattox Court House Village

The village contains 28 restored and reconstructed buildings, as well as visitor, maintenance and administrative facilities. The planning process provides an opportunity to evaluate how these buildings are being used and what changes, if any, should occur.

Lands surrounding the village

A walking trail through the fields and forests surrounding the village reveals to visitors a number of sites associated with the events of 1865. The area is less intensively farmed and more wooded than it was in 1865, but still evokes the setting and feeling of the period. The GMP will determine how best to manage the cultural and natural resources of the greater park landscape.

New lands

The park boundary expanded in 1992 by 400 acres. The new GMP will prioritize opportunities and detail the management of these newly acquired lands.

State Route 24

While SR 24 bisects the park, providing views of the landscape and access to interpretive sites, the proximity of the highway to resource features and pedestrian traffic introduces noise, safety and other issues that require solutions.

Regional context

The cities and counties in the region are growing. How can the park work with the neighboring communities, including conservation, transportation, and economic development interests, to protect park resources and enhance the region?

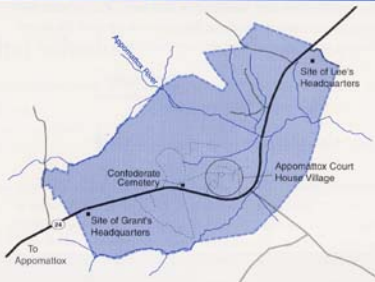
Stories of Appomattox Court House

Developing agreement on educational and interpretive themes is an important component of the GMP as it provides the framework for a wide range of visitor opportunities. Ways of integrating the stories of Appomattox Court House with those of other Civil War sites also will be explored.

VISITING THE PARK

Today Appomattox Court House National Historical Park represents the appearance of the village on the day in April 1865 when Generals Lee and Grant met and the Civil War came to a close. Some structures that were standing then are now gone, but all buildings that figured prominently in the events of the surrender have either been restored or reconstructed.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park lies on SR 24, about two hours west of Richmond and just northeast of the town of Appomattox. The park comprises 1,775 acres. The visitor center is located in the village



center in the reconstructed courthouse building. The McLean House, where Lee and Grant met to discuss the terms of surrender, lies just to the west of the courthouse.

Outside the village are several other sites related to the surrender, including the site of Lee's headquarters that last night where he pondered his decision, the site of Grant's headquarters, and a small cemetery just west of the village that contains the graves of 18 Confederate soldiers and one Union soldier who were killed in the fighting at Appomattox. A six-mile hiking trail through the park connects these and other important sites.